

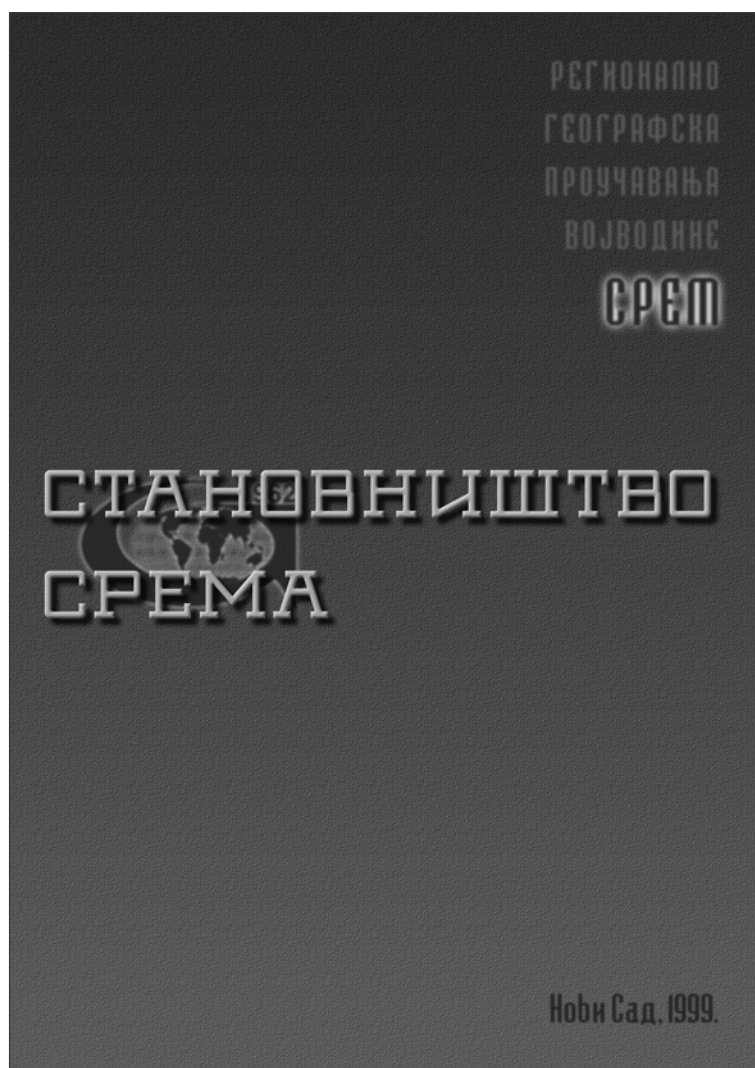
BOOK REVIEWS



The Population of Srem

At the end of the year 1999, the Institute of Geography, Faculty of Natural Sciences in Novi Sad, published a monography "The Population of Srem". The monography is a part of the project "The Regional Geographic Research of Vojvodina" sponsored by the Ministry of Science and Technology of Serbia. The authors of this monography are Branislav Djurdjev, PhD, Sasa Kicosev, PhD, Milka Bubalo, Darko Radjevic, Andjelija Ivkov (from the Institute of Geography) and Verica Bozic-Krstic, PhD, and Tatjana Pavlica (from the Institute of Biology).

Due to optimal geographic location, good natural conditions and rich natural resources, Srem has always been an attractive region for settling. Therefore, the analysis of population in Srem, the smallest region of Vojvodina, is very interesting. It is also a very complex subject which can be seen from the fact that the authors have divided the monography in eight parts: Demographic Development Throughout History, Territorial Distribution of Population, Natural Growth of Population, Migrations, Structures of Population, Households and Families, Future of Population, Anthropologic Features of Adult Population.



The largest part of the text is devoted to migrations and structures of population. In the part about migrations the authors analyze several types of mass migrations which happened in Srem during the 20th century: colonization between two World Wars, emigration of German population, colonization, immigration of peasantry, emigration of "gastarbeiters", immigration of refugees in the period 1990-1996. In order to solve the problems of the latest immigration, the authors propose some interesting solutions, all in the style "how to convert the faults into virtues". The idea is that the refugees who are able to work should be transformed from the mere consumers to the producers. This would be achieved by their settlement in the borderline villages. Thus, the main quality of the monography is reflected in the fact that authors' aim is not only to analyze the data but also to propose some solutions to both present and future demographic problems.

Another significant quality of the monography is the fact that, apart from analyzing past and present demographic situation, authors try to project the future of the population in Srem. All projections are made by the method of components, the method commonly used by the United Nations for periodic national projections.

The monography is completed by an interesting and original section on anthropologic features of population of Srem.

The presentation of the monography is exceptional. There are numerous maps, graphs and pictures. Authors have provided detailed documentation for every thesis, which is very important for both understanding the text and checking its validity.

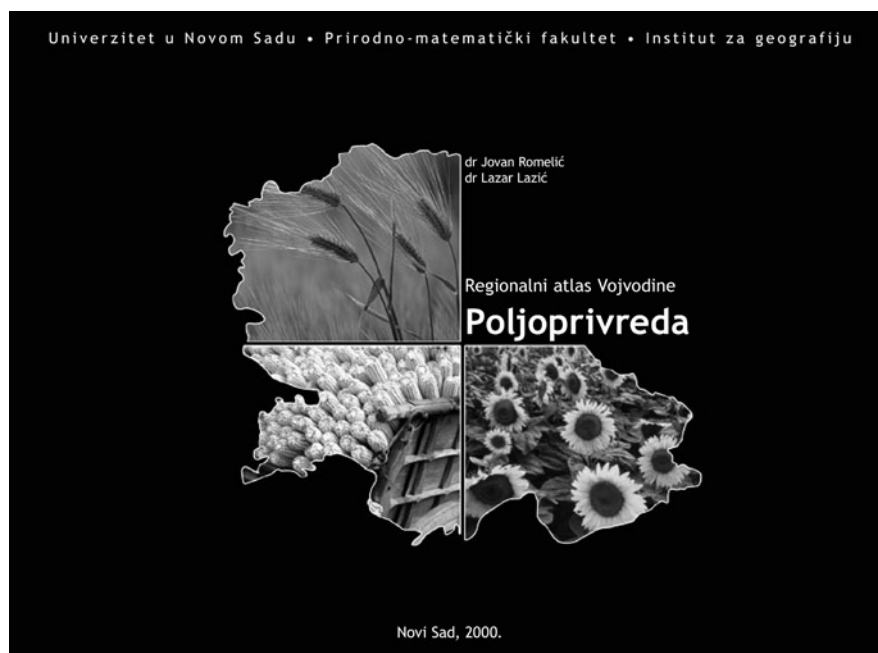
Finally, the best way to present this monography may be to quote our well known geographer from Vojvodina, Nebojsa Caric, who said that "this valuable study should be a reference to those who make decisions on the development of local population".

Vladimir Stojanović, assistant

The Regional Atlas of Vojvodina – Agriculture

The Regional Atlas of Vojvodina – Agriculture" is a monography written by Jovan Romelić, PhD, and Lazar Lazić, PhD, both teaching at the Faculty of Natural Sciences in Novi Sad, in which they analyze the distribution of agriculture in Vojvodina from the geographic point of view.

This study is only a part of the project called "The Regional Atlas of Vojvodina" which gathers a team of professors and assistants from the Institute of Geography in Novi Sad. The book contains 61 illustrated figures made up of various maps, graphs, diagrams, graphic models etc. Graphic presentations of certain quantitative and qualitative aspects of agriculture are completed by 34 tables. The function of text is not only to comment on the data shown in a graph and table, but also to analyze the distribution and development of agriculture, as well as to offer some conclusions.



The book is divided in 10 main sections, which are again divided in a number of subsections. The main sections are: Natural Factors of Agricultural Development, Social and Historical Factors of Agricultural Development, Cultivation of Land, Feed Grains, Vegetable-growing, Medicinal Herbs, Viticulture, Fruit-growing, Cattle-breeding and Conclusion. At the end of the book, the authors give 94 references, the majority of which are quoted in the Atlas itself.

From the viewpoint of methodology, the monography is a combination of branching and regional approaches to examination of conditions and factors relevant in the distribution of agriculture.

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In the section called "Natural Factors of Agricultural Development" the authors are analyzing relative physical-geographic features of the area. They also describe the primitive forms of cultivation, as well as the methods for creating favorable natural conditions which can intensify the development of agriculture.

In the section called "Social and Historical Factors of Agricultural Development" the authors talk about population structure according to activity, population as consumers of agricultural products and the subjects in the development of agriculture (private farms, agricultural companies and farmers' co-operative societies). They also analyze the factors of agricultural intensification, as well as the influence of agro-industry on the agricultural economy.

Regionalization, as the ultimate aim of geographic research of agriculture, has been applied in the sections about land cultivation and viticulture. In these two branches of agriculture the regional division is not as much a question at issue as it is in other cases. Using the methods of cartography and correlation coefficient the authors managed to confirm the generally adopted identification of farm and vineyard regions.

In the analysis of distribution of certain plant and cattle sorts, the authors have tried to establish the relation between the distribution and the location of agro-industrial objects. It was also necessary to establish relation between the average production in period 1979-1993 and the capacity of industrial objects located in the center of areas where certain plant and cattle sorts are produced.

The authors have concluded that the great natural potential has played the main role in the obvious concentration of agro-industry in Vojvodina. The connections between primary production and light industry have caused the feedback influence of industry on agriculture. This tendency existed until the beginning of the last decade i.e. the economical sanctions against Yugoslavia. The authors conclude that the influence of agro-industry on agriculture is best seen in the following forms: changes in the structure of land cultivation and cattle breeding, agricultural specialization of certain regions, appearance of industrial plants etc. Certain branches of agro-industry have led to the massive employment of seasonal workers. The agricultural production has been expanded and the application of scientific achievements in industry has improved both quality and quantity of agricultural products.

Vladimir Stojanović, assistant

XV book in the edition "Cultural and Historical Inheritance of Vojvodina"

Village Churches and Graveyards in Vojvodina

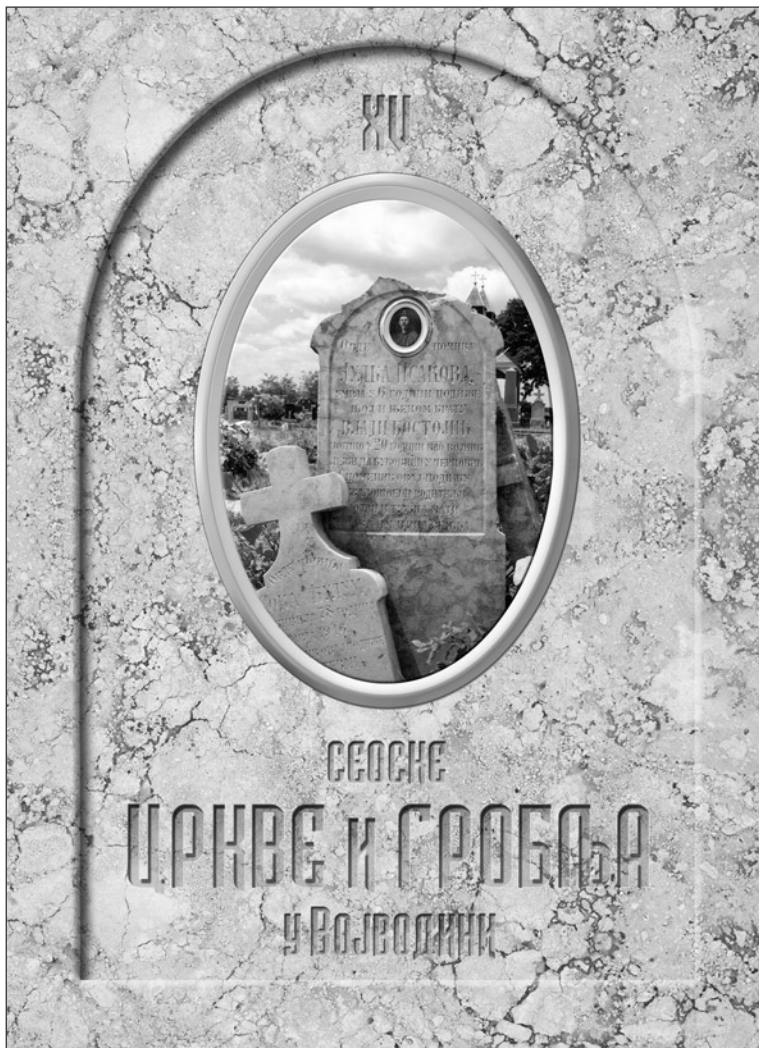
Two themes in one book, two books in one. The first theme is the continuation of the XIV book Village and Farm Churches in Vojvodina. This part is represented by the following chapters: Sociology of Church (147 pages), Ethnomusicology (54), Stories About the Clergy (37), Anecdotes on Priests, Sextons, Bellingers, Believers and Unbelievers (33), and the continuation of chapter 'Religious Shrines in the Villages and Farms of Vojvodina' (125).

The second part of the book is about village graveyards. It consists of the following chapters: Essays, discussions, stories and poems (78 pages), Architecture and art of village graveyards (27), Roadside crucifixes and memorial plaques (16), Funeral customs (96), Sociology of graveyards (93), Survey of village graveyards (235), Atlas of old monuments (157), Anecdotes (10) and Early studies (10).

The book contains 237 enclosures and 1200 pages. It represents a capital work, historical material, especially with its enclosures on old graveyards, which rapidly disappear nowadays.

The editor of this publication is professor Veselin Lazic, PhD, and the members of the editorial board are: Lazar Lazic, PhD, Jelena Manojlovic Dimovska, PhD and Filip Forkapic, dipl. eng. The publisher is Cultural and Historical Society PCESA, Novi Sad, Trg Dositeja Obradovica 8 (Tel/fax: 021 450 609).

When we think about history, we usually think of wars, conquests, rises and falls of states. We rarely think of something good and nice, a friendly relationship between two nations, for example. Unfortunately, the national and religious relationships among the people of former Yugoslavia have been spoiled, which caused



many wars in the recent past. Where were the Gods, for there are more than one – each religion has its own God, when we needed them to stop the wars and slaughter?

After the World War II, Serbs have destroyed many German churches and graveyards. The Serbian atheists have destroyed even their own churches, Vodice, for example. In the past 10 years, those same atheists, at that time claiming to be great communists, have quickly transformed into “religious” people. Actually, they turned into Serbian nationalists, rather than Orthodox believers.

The graveyards are the reflection of the living. The monuments dating from 18th, 19th and the first half of the 20th century are often neglected and partly destroyed, especially in Serbia. This book is a warning: we should look after the graves of our ancestors, because they are historical witnesses of life in this area, the mutual life of Serbs, Croats, Hungarians, Slovaks and Ruthenians. The famous Hungarian writer, Bela Hamvas, says: “Religion, Philosophy and Science are trying to make our life easier, and the Inheritance brings us back to ourselves.” Tombstones are a part of inheritance.

We are all mortal. Some of us will live longer than others, but we will all eventually die. Our famous poet Vasko Popa once wrote:

He had to die, they say,
for he was closer to the stars
than to the mankind.

Veselin Lazic, professor

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